

Prentis Park Pool Plans

By Shauna Marlette
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The Prentis Park pool project is heading into exciting times.

Up until now, all of the work on the project has been either in planning or behind the scenes work, but Vermillion Park and Recreation director Jim Goblirsch informed the Vermillion City Council on Monday that it is time to move forward and bid out the project.

"On Dec. 7, I am going to come to the council and ask for your approval to put the bonds out for bid," he said. "We will be asking for you to authorize the bidding of this project, which we are looking to do in early January. December 7 is the meeting we have scheduled for the authorization of that."

Goblirsch said that things are progressing very well at Prentis Park.

"As you can see there have been some additions to the Prentis Park Ball Field, with the restrooms finished for both the baseball field and the park," he said. "The baseball field trees have been trimmed, with some of them being cleared. The electric company has done a nice job over there rerouting the power throughout the park for the parking lots and the pool. A lot of that ground-work that we can see has been done. It is nice to get that stuff done so when the time comes to break ground on our other projects we can move forward quickly."

As for what is planned at the pool area of Prentis Park, Goblirsch said it is very similar to what was proposed to the public.

"There probably won't be a final design until Dec. 7," he said. "It isn't too far away from the original design. Not too much has changed. The same features we have been telling you about, just more solid ideas."

Those solid ideas include many that the board expressed their excitement over.

"We are looking to put in a double cantilever two-pole shade structure for the concession area," Goblirsch said. "It will provide 30x38 foot structure that will provide lots of shade. We are looking at putting a similar structure in the pool area instead of a solid structure because the cost is about three times less."

He gave a general overview of the new facility. "The lazy river will be roughly 180-feet long," Goblirsch said. "There will be a zero-depth entry on the pool. So, it starts at no water

and slides down to about 4-feet of water. There will be an in water bench which will be almost a blocker for the pool, because one of the concerns was we were taking away the wading pool. There will be two big slides, one a tube slide and the other a body slide. We are going to have a six-lane 25-meter pool, where we will keep 1.5 lanes open and dedicated to lap swimmers, at this time. A large floatable play feature. A low-dive similar to what we have now."

Goblirsch expanded on a few of the items.

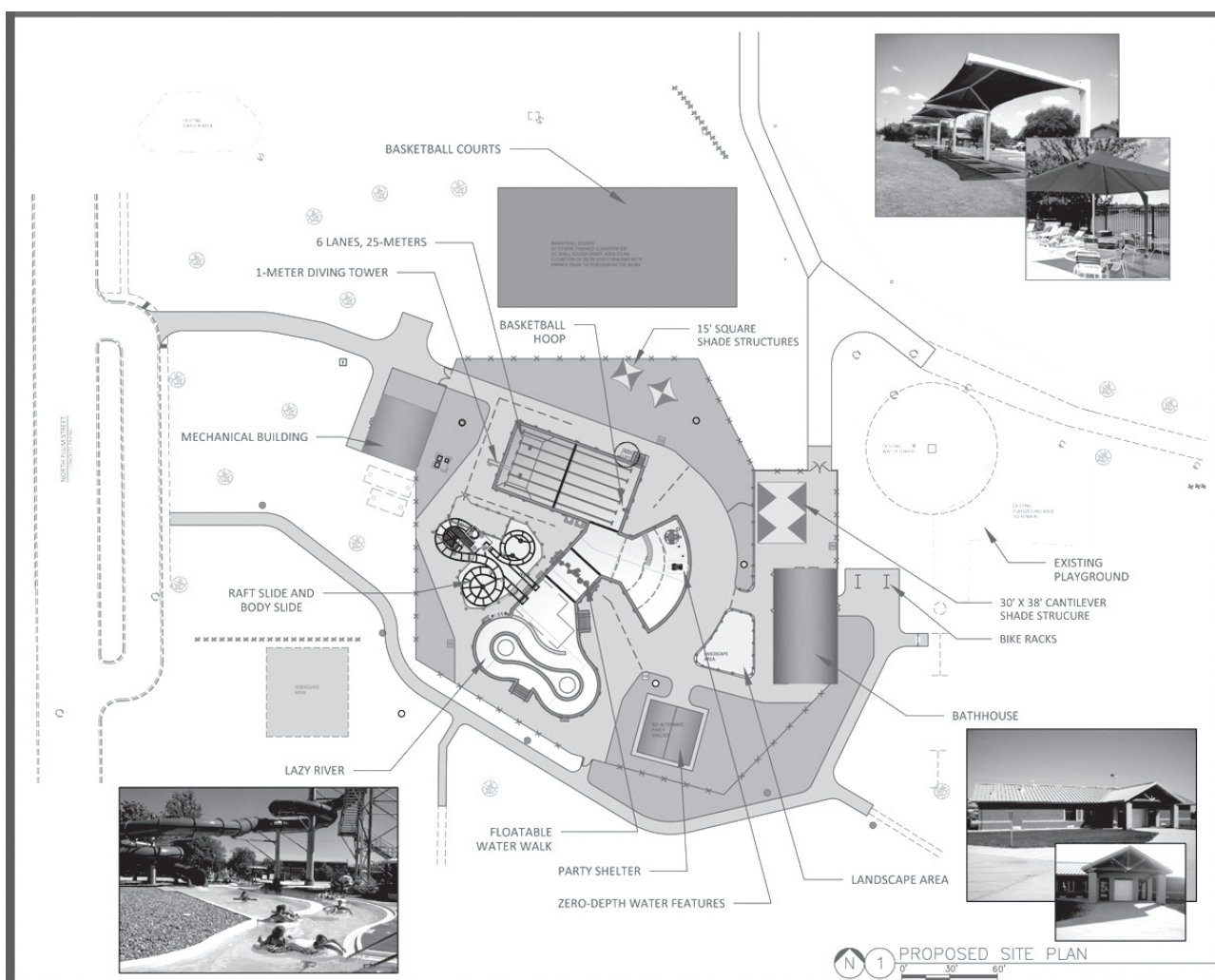
"The bathhouse will have a rolled up door so we have a nice access and people will not have to be opening and closing doors," he said. "They can go right up to the counter, where we will have a multi-level counter for ADA necessity, as well as a little bit higher counter for safety reasons. It will have a big open ceiling. There will be men's and women's changing rooms, as well as two family changing rooms, one of those will be ADA accessible, the other will not. We will have a roof over everything."

He said the two slides will provide thrills for younger children and older alike.

"The big slide is a tube slide which will then be allowed to go into the lazy river," he said. "So, you won't even have to get off the tube, you can just keep riding around the river. It is a little bit of a slower slide and we will have tubes for both one and two person riders, which will be nice in allowing people to change up who they go down with. The other slide is more of a speed slide, a thrill factor. We wanted to include something a little bit more exciting for our older children. We think it will compare to the high dive. The enclosed tube slide will have what looks like neon lights coming through. There will be a full canopy over the slide structure to provide some shade for our slide attendants up on top. We will get a bid from the construction company as well as two other vendors."

Goblirsch said the theme of the park will be sports.

"It is pretty generic but has a lot of color," he said. "We will put a slide feature in the zero-depth area that will allow kids to slide off it, climb on it. It is a softer plastic and



will allow for a lot of interactivity with all of the features coming off it. Some of the other features will be little shooters where the water shoots out of it."

He said one feature that he is excited about is the water walk.

"What a water walk area is, is where the kids crawl across four or five floating

flat soft items," he said. "We are looking to see if we need another float. The one big feature in the lap pool will be a floating baseball bat similar to the alligator at Wild Water West in Sioux Falls, which will be removable. This will be for the older kids, 10-14 years old."

He said there will be shade structures that will

have multi-colored tops. They are planned to be 15x15 feet. But the placement of them has not been decided.

"These features we will ask for included in the base bid as well as ask for additional bids," Goblirsch said. "They will be installed by the contractor so we do have a warrantee. The volume of

water will be less than what is used in the current pool, but it will be more usable water. We really tried to meet all levels of age groups. We tried to design it so everyone has something to do. We tried to design it so it is marketable for parties, private rentals and we think we can draw people from other communities, as well."

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Harp Concert

Start your holiday season with the heavenly sounds of harps in concert! Sunday, November 29, 2015, at 7:00 PM the Jubal Chapter of the American Harp Society will present a concert featuring music from Broadway musicals and music of the Christmas season. The performance will take place at First Lutheran Church, 327 South Dakota in Sioux Falls.

Imagine more than thirty harps from small lap harps and Celtic harps to concert harps that would be at home in a symphony all joining their strings in lovely harmony. The harpists will present selections from musicals including Les Miserables, The Sound of Music, Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat and Mame as well as favorite Christmas carols. The performers range in age from early elementary school to senior citizens. Experiences range from newer harpists to well accomplished musicians. The effect is magical!

Erin Weightman, who is a Junior at Elk Point-Jefferson school, will be participating in this year's concert. Erin is the daughter of Rob Weightman of Elk Point and Esther Weightman of Vermillion.

Tickets for the concert will be available at the door. Cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and \$20.00 for families. All proceeds go to support the 501(c)3 organization which educates harpists and the public about the harp and its repertoire.